

Serial No. 10/761,243
Page 2

Listing of Claims

Please amend the claims as listed below.

1. (Cancelled).
2. (Cancelled).
3. (Cancelled).
4. (Cancelled).
5. (Cancelled).
6. (Cancelled).
7. (Cancelled).
8. (Cancelled).
9. (Cancelled).
10. (Cancelled).
11. (Cancelled).
12. (Cancelled).
13. (Presently Amended) A method, comprising:

resolving an IP address of an access point in a new

subnetwork when a mobile station is in a current subnetwork;

obtaining pre-authentication for the mobile station to

work over the current and new subnetworks using said IP address;

Serial No. 10/761,243
Page 3

~~The method of claim 6,~~

wherein said access point in the new subnetwork does not support higher-layer pre-authentication and communicates with the mobile station via a proxy agent and said IP address is of said proxy agent.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the proxy agent uses the MAC address of the mobile station.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said access point in the new subnetwork communicates IEEE 802.1X frames to the mobile station via the proxy agent.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the mobile station's MAC address is carried in a payload of higher-layer packets.

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Cancelled).

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Cancelled).

Serial No. 10/761,243
Page 4

22. (Presently Amended) A method, comprising:

resolving an IP address of an access point in a new
subnetwork when a mobile station is in a current subnetwork; and

obtaining pre-authentication for the mobile station to
work over the current and new subnetworks using said IP address;

wherein said access point in the new subnetwork

supports higher-layer pre-authentication and communicates with the
mobile station;

wherein the said access point in the new subnetwork

communicates with the mobile remote station by using a higher-layer
protocol that carries 802.1X frames; and

~~The method of claim 18,~~

further including using a newly defined protocol to carry

802.1x frames over a reliable transport.

23. (original) The method of claim 22, wherein the

reliable transport uses TCP.

24. (Cancelled).

25. (Cancelled).

26. (Cancelled).

Serial No. 10/761,243
Page 5

27. (Cancelled).
28. (Cancelled).
29. (Cancelled).
30. (Cancelled).
31. (Presently Amended) A method comprising
reducing handoff delay of a mobile station by pre-
establishing higher-layer contexts prior to handoff based on higher-
layer pre-authentication, and

~~The method of claim 24,~~

further including using a single higher-layer
authentication protocol for pre-establishing a plurality of the higher-
layer contexts.

32. (Original) The method of claim 31, further including
using IKE or IKEv2 for pre-establishing a plurality of the higher-layer
contexts.

33. (Original) The method of claim 31, further including
using PANA and IKE or IKEv2 for pre-establishing a plurality of the
higher-layer contexts.

34. (Presently Amended) A method comprising,

Serial No. 10/761,243

Page 6

reducing handoff delay of a mobile station by pre-
establishing higher-layer contexts prior to handoff based on higher-
layer pre-authentication, and

~~The method of claim 24,~~

further including establishing an IPsec tunnel between
the mobile station and an access point in a new subnetwork for
redirecting traffic for a pre-configured IP address of the mobile station
to a currently attached subnetwork.

35. (Cancelled).

36. (Presently Amended) A method for performing a
handoff of a mobile station between access points in different access
networks with minimal interruption and with maintained security,
comprising:

pre-establishing higher-layer contexts for the mobile
station prior to handoff and securely redirecting traffic originated from
or destined for a pre-established IP address to a new access network,
and

~~The method of claim 35,~~

further including establishing an IPsec tunnel between

Serial No. 10/761,243
Page 7

the mobile station and an access router in the new access network,
where an IPsec tunnel inner address is bound to the pre-established
IP address.

37. (Presently Amended) A method for performing a
handoff of a mobile station between access points in different access
networks with minimal interruption and with maintained security,
comprising:

pre-establishing higher-layer contexts for the mobile
station prior to handoff and securely redirecting traffic originated from
or destined for a pre-established IP address to a new access network,
and

~~The method of claim 35,~~

wherein an access router in the new access network is
used as a temporal home agent with which a client device registers its
pre-established IP address as a home address and the IP address
assigned in a physically attached network as the care-of address.

38. (Cancelled).

39. (Cancelled).

40. (Cancelled).

Serial No. 10/761,243
Page 8.

41. (Cancelled).

42. (Cancelled).

43. (Cancelled).

44. (Cancelled).

45. (Cancelled).

46. (Cancelled).

47. (Presently Amended) A method comprising:

performing a virtual soft handoff of a mobile device

between access points in proximate networks or subnetworks to

minimize communication interruption by allowing the mobile device to

send and receive packets from a new one of said access points prior

to handoff, and

~~The method of claim 44,~~

further including controlling a layer-2 handoff timing by a

higher layer so that pre-authentication and pre-configuration can be

completed prior to starting layer-2 handoff.

48. (Presently Amended) A method comprising:

performing a virtual soft handoff of a mobile device

between access points in proximate networks or subnetworks to

Serial No. 10/761,243
Page 9

minimize communication interruption by allowing the mobile device to
send and receive packets from a new one of said access points prior
to handoff, and

~~The method of claim 44,~~

further including using an IPsec tunnel for traffic
redirection during a virtual soft-handoff, with outer and inner IP
addresses of a device for the IPsec tunnel being a care-of address in
the current subnet and the care-of address in a new subnet,
respectively.

49. (Original) The method of claim 48, further
including deleting the established IPsec tunnel prior to performing a
layer-2 handoff.

50. (Presently Amended) A method comprising:
performing a virtual soft handoff of a mobile device
between access points in proximate networks or subnetworks to
minimize communication interruption by allowing the mobile device to
send and receive packets from a new one of said access points prior
to handoff, and

~~The method of claim 44,~~

Serial No. 10/761,243
Page 10

further including using an IPsec tunnel for all traffic.

51. (Original) The method of claim 50, further
including deleting an established IPsec tunnel prior to performing a
layer-2 handoff.

52. (Cancelled).

53. (Cancelled)

54. (Cancelled)

55. (Cancelled).

56. (Cancelled).

57. (Cancelled).

58. (Cancelled).

59. (Cancelled).

60. (Cancelled).